IN THE CLAIMS:

1.   (Currently amended) A process for producing a water-absorbing polymer~~, which comprises~~ comprising a base polymer A being mixed with a first aqueous solution B of at least one surface postcrosslinker and a second aqueous solution C of at least one polyvalent cation and thermally treated, wherein said base polymer A is based on an at least 50% neutralized acid-functional monomer and said solutions B and C are metered wholly or partly concurrently through separate nozzles, the concentration of the at least one surface postcrosslinker on said base polymer A being in the range from 0.01% to 0.5% by weight and the concentration of the at least one polyvalent cation on said base polymer A being in the range from 0.001% to 0.5% by weight, based in each case on said base polymer A.

2.   (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein said solutions B and C are metered concurrently through separate nozzles.

3.   (Currently amended) The process of claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ wherein said solution B comprises a cosolvent.

4.   (Currently amended) The process of ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 3~~ wherein said solution B of said surface postcrosslinker comprises an oxazolidone.

5. (Currently amended) The process of ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 4~~ wherein said solution B comprises at least two mutually distinct surface postcrosslinkers.

6. (Currently amended) The process of ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 5~~ wherein said solution B comprises at least one surface postcrosslinker ~~which is not~~ different from a polyol and at least one polyol.

7. (Currently amended) The process of ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 6~~ wherein said base polymer A has a deagglomerating assistant added to it.

8. (Currently amended) The process of claim 7 wherein said deagglomerating assistant is sorbitan monococoate ~~and/or~~, sorbitan monolaurate, or a mixture thereof.

9. (Currently amended) The process of claim 7 ~~or 8~~ wherein said deagglomerating assistant is added to said aqueous solution B or to said aqueous solution C.

10. (Currently amended) The process of ~~any of claims~~ claim 7 ~~to 9~~ wherein the deagglomerating assistant is metered such that the surface tension of an aqueous extract of the swollen water-absorbing polymer after addition of said deagglomerating assistant is at least 0.065 N/m.

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11.   (Currently amended)   The process of ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 10~~ wherein the concentration of the at least one surface postcrosslinker in said solution B, based on said solution B, is not more than 30% by weight.

12.   (Currently amended)   The process of ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 11~~ wherein the concentration of the at least one surface postcrosslinker on said base polymer A, based on said base polymer A, is in the range from 0.1% by weight to 1% by weight.

13.   (Currently amended)   The process of ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 12~~ wherein the concentration of the at least one polyvalent cation in said solution C, based on said solution C, is not more than 12% by weight.

14.   (Currently amended)   The process of ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 13~~ wherein the concentration of the at least one polyvalent cation on said base polymer A, based on said base polymer A, is in the range from 0.001% by weight to 0.5% by weight.

15.   (Currently amended)   The process of ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 14~~ wherein the concentration of the at least one polyvalent cation on said base polymer A, based on said base polymer A, is in the range from 0.02% by weight to 0.1% by weight.

16. (Currently amended) The process of ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 15~~ wherein the ratio of said solution B to said solution C is in the range from 10:1 to 1:10.

17. (Currently amended) The process of ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 16~~ wherein the total amount of said solutions B and C is in the range from 2.5% to 6.5% by weight, based on said base polymer A.

18. (Currently amended) The process of ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 17~~ wherein said base polymer A is a partially neutralized and crosslinked polyacrylic acid.

19. (Currently amended) The process of ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 18~~ wherein said base polymer A has a pH in the range from 5.6 to 6.2.

20. (Currently amended) The process of ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 19~~ wherein said solutions B and C are sprayed onto said base polymer A and the average diameter of the sprayed drops is in the range from 50 to 100 μm.

21. (Currently amended) A water-absorbing polymer ~~obtainable according to a~~ prepared by the process of ~~claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 20~~, said polymer having a saline flow conductivity of not less than 80x10^{-7} cm^{3}s/g and ~~comprises~~ comprising not less than 80% by weight of particles between 150 and 600 μm in size.

22. (Original) The polymer of claim 21 comprising not less than 80% by weight of particles between 150 and 500 μm in size.

23. (Currently amended) The polymer of claim 21 ~~or 22~~ comprising not less than 95% by weight of particles ~~having the preferred size~~ <u>between 150 and 500 μm in size</u>.

24. (Currently amended) The polymer of ~~any of claims~~ <u>claim</u> 21 ~~to 23~~ having a saline flow conductivity of not less than 100×10^{-7} cm^3s/g.

25. (Currently amended) The polymer of ~~any of claims~~ <u>claim</u> 21 ~~to 24~~ having a saline flow conductivity of not less than 120×10^{-7} cm^3s/g.

26. (Currently amended) The polymer of ~~any of claims~~ <u>claim</u> 21 ~~to 25~~ having a centrifuge retention capacity of not less than 24 g/g and an absorbency under load at 4830 Pa of not less than 21 g/g.